

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17247

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: FIFTH CONFERENCE IN GLOBAL IMPACT OF APPLIED
MICROBIOLOGY (GIAM)

1. DR. ROGER PORTER, L/S EXPERT ON UNESCO PANEL ON MICROBIOLOGY, TOLD PERMREP THAT SUBJECT MEETING WILL BE "POSTPONED" TO INDEFINITE DATE AS GOVERNMENT OF MALAY-SIA STILL ADAMANT IN REFUSAL GRANT VISA TO ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES. PORTER SAID DDG FOBES HAD TOLD PANEL THAT UNESCO COULD NOT SUPPORT MEETING UNLESS IT WAS OPEN TO ALL MEMBER STATES. PORTER SAID OPTION TO POSTPONE WAS THEN AGREED UPON AS BEST ALTERNATIVE, ALTHOUGH GOM STILL VERY MUCH WANTED TO HAVE THE MEETING AND HAD PLEDGED \$100,00 IN SUPPORT.

2. DR. PORTER SAID THE OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED WERE: (1) TO HOLD THE MEETING AS SCHEDULED, (2) SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER ARAB OR MOSLEMS TO INFLUENCE THE GOM, (3) REDUCE MEETING TO A REGIONAL CONFERENCE OR, (4) CANCEL OR POSTPONE. THE LATTER WAS SELECTED AS MOST APPROPRIATE AND POSTPONEMENT RATHER THAN CANCELLATION IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DECISION WILL BE PRESENTED.

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3. DR. PORTER HOPES THAT AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD OF

TIME HAS PASSED THE MEETING CAN BE REVIVED, PROBABLY
IN ANOTHER ASIAN CAPITAL.

4. COMMENT: DECISION OF SECRETARIATE TO TAKE FIRM
POSITION AGAINST UNESCO INVOLVEMENT UNLESS ISRAEL COULD
ATTEND AS A MEMBER STATE IS CERTAINLY THE CORRECT ONE.
IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THIS CAN BE USED AS A POSITIVE
STEP EVIDENCING UNESCO'S PURSUANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF
UNIVERSALITY. DR. PORTER IS TO BE COMMENDED ON HIS
HANDLING OF THIS MATTER ON THE PANEL. THE PROBLEM WAS
RESOLVED IN AN ENTIRELY CALM AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER.
RUSH

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